

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

ORIG : [REDACTED]
 UNIT : [REDACTED]
 EXT : [REDACTED]
 DATE: 21 APRIL 1970

TOP SECRET RUFF

ROUTING			
1		9	25X1
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P R E C E D E N C E		DEFERRED	PRIORITY INITIALS
	X	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE INITIALS 25X1

TO : [REDACTED]
 FROM: [REDACTED]
 CONF: [REDACTED]
 INFO : [REDACTED]

OUT 69734

TO

CITE

8372

REF:

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM [REDACTED]

1. IN OUR NOTE 19/70 OF 3 FEBRUARY 1970 WHICH WAS BASED ON COVERAGE UP THROUGH DECEMBER 1969, WE INDICATED THAT THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AT THE SAM TRAINING FACILITIES AT SHAN TAN, CHINA HAD NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. WE AGREE THAT THE LAUNCH FACILITIES AT SHAN TAN TRAINING AREA B WERE INACTIVE DURING 1968 AND EARLY 1969 AND THAT ACTIVITIES RESUMED IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1969, BUT WE BELIEVE THERE WAS LESS ACTIVITY IN THIS LATTER PERIOD THAN WAS SEEN IN [REDACTED]

2. OUR EVALUATION OF ACTIVITY LEVELS AT SHAN TAN AREA B WAS AN OVERALL JUDGEMENT BASED ON TWO FACTORS — THE NUMBER OF LAUNCH SITES OCCUPIED AND THE AMOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY OBSERVED THERE.

COORDINATING OFFICERS

TOP SECRET RUFF

GROUP 1
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AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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OCCUPANCY

IN [] THREE SITE SETS OF SA-2 EQUIPMENT WERE EVIDENT AT SHAN TAN AREA B. ONE SET EACH WAS AT SITES A, B, AND C. IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1969, ONLY TWO SETS WERE EVIDENT DESPITE THE AVAILABILITY OF THREE IMPROVED LAUNCH SITES, ONE OF THEM RECENTLY UPGRADED. IN DECEMBER NO LAUNCH EQUIPMENT WAS PRESENT.

25X1

CONSTRUCTION

IN [] LAUNCH SITE D AT SHAN TAN AREA B WAS UPGRADED TO THE SAME STATUS AS SITES A AND B, WITH THE ADDITION OF REVETTING AROUND THE TWO EXISTING LAUNCH POSITIONS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR UNRETTED LAUNCH POSITIONS. SINCE THAT TIME, LAUNCH SITE C HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DETERIORATE SOMEWHAT.

25X1

IN EVALUATING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSTRUCTION AT TRAINING AREA B, WE HAVE REGARDED THE BARRACKS BUILDINGS BUILT DURING LATE 1968 AND 1969 AS AN IMPROVEMENT OF ACCOMMODATIONS RATHER THAN AN EXPANSION OF THEM. THE SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE NEW PERMANENT BARRACKS APPEARS SUITABLE FOR ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AS COULD PREVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN ACCOMMODATED IN THE TENT CAMPS, CONSIDERING THE DIFFERENCES IN LIVING CONDITIONS WHICH SUCH A CHANGE WOULD PROBABLY BRING ABOUT. QUANTITIES OF TENTS HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED AT SHAN TAN AREA B SINCE [] AT WHICH TIME THE MAJORITY OF THE PERMANENT BUILDINGS APPEARED COMPLETED.

25X1

3. THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SHAN TAN SAM TRAINING FACILITIES ACQUIRED THUS FAR IN 1970 INDICATES THAT THE AREAS ARE ACTIVE AGAIN. LAUNCH SITES B AND D

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AT TRAINING AREA B WERE OCCUPIED IN [REDACTED] AND IN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], WHEREAS IN [REDACTED] OF LAST WINTER

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TRAINING AREA B WAS UNOCCUPIED WHEN OBSERVED. AT TRAINING AREA A ON THE [REDACTED]
PHOTOGRAPHY, A NEW SA-2 SITE WITH REVETTED LAUNCH POSITIONS AND A GUIDANCE
AREA WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION OUTSIDE THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRAINING AREA.
IN ADDITION A TRAINING SITE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED INSIDE THE NORTHWEST CORNER
OF THE TRAINING AREA. THIS REPRESENTS THE MOST NEW CONSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITY
THAT HAS BEEN OBSERVED AT SHAN TAN AREA A SINCE ABOUT MID-1966. WE ARE
CURRENTLY PREPARING A NOTE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

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END OF MESSAGE

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